

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the support bar is formed of an elongated bar having at least one passage through the elongated bar and positioned adjacent to one of the first and second ends of the elongated bar;

the elastic retainer is further structured to pass through the passage; and

at least one of the anchors is further structured to be unable to pass through the passage.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 10 wherein the support bar further comprises at least two spaced-apart passages adjacent the respective opposing edges, and wherein at least one of the two spaced-apart passages further comprises a slot through a thickness of the support bar and communicating with an edge thereof.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 10 wherein the support bar further comprises at least two spaced-apart passages adjacent the respective opposing edges, and wherein at least one of the two spaced-apart passages further comprises an aperture formed through a thickness of the support bar and positioned adjacent an edge thereof.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the support member is formed of a material selected from the group of materials consisting of: plastic, Plexiglas, acrylic, wood, and metal.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the support bar is formed of a rectangular plate including the two spaced-apart edges.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the elastic retainer further comprises an elastic material having a slippery contact surface and having the anchoring means formed at first and second opposite ends thereof.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 15 wherein the first and second anchors further comprise an anchor selected from the group of anchors consisting of a loop, a knot, a hook, a slip-on clip, and a crimp-on clip.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The book page holder device of claim 15 wherein elastic retainer further comprises a plurality of the anchoring means formed at one of the first and second opposite ends thereof and spaced at intervals along the elastic retainer.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the means for compacting the support bar is limited to the means for telescoping a first portion of the support bar relative to a second portion thereof.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A book page holder device for holding open the pages of a book, the book page holder device ~~comprising~~ consisting of:

a substantially ~~uniformly~~ narrow flat and rigid elongated support bar structured for supporting an open book thereon across to a spine of the open book with the spine and two opposite covers of the book being arranged adjacent to the elongated support bar, the support bar being formed with two opposing edges spaced apart across a width of the support bar, the support bar further comprising means for compacting the support bar selected from the group of compacting means consisting of means for telescoping a first portion of the support bar relative to a second portion thereof, and means for folding the first portion of the support bar relative to the second portion thereof; and

a single resilient elastic retainer structured for gripping and holding pages of an open book supported on the support bar with the pages retained substantially against both respective opposite covers of the open book, the single elastic retainer being structured to extend between the two spaced-apart edges of the elongated support bar and having first and second anchors provided adjacent to respective first and second opposite ends thereof, the anchors being structured to secure the first and second opposite ends of the elastic retainer adjacent to the respective spaced-apart edges of the support bar.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A book page holder device, ~~comprising~~ consisting of:

a substantially rigid elongated support bar structured for supporting an open book thereon crosswise to a spine of the open book with two opposite covers of the spine of the book laying adjacent to the elongated support bar, the support bar having substantially planar first and second operating surfaces extending ~~substantially uniformly~~ between first and second spaced-apart ends thereof; and

an elongated resilient elastic retainer structured for gripping and holding the pages of an open book supported on the support bar with the pages substantially compressed against respective opposite covers of the open book and holding the covers of the open book substantially compressed against the support bar, the elastic retainer having first and second ends anchored to the first and second ends of the support bar operating surfaces adjacent the first and second ends thereof with at least one of the first and second ends of the elastic retainer being releasably so anchored, the elastic retainer being in tension when so anchored to the support bar operating surfaces.

Claim 21 (original): The device of claim 20 wherein the elastic retainer further comprises anchors on each of its first and second ends.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The device of claim 21 wherein the support bar further comprises a passage formed as a slot communicating with a first edge portion of the support bar adjacent the first end thereof; and one of the anchors is selected from the group of anchors consisting of a loop formed in the elastic retainer, a knot formed in the elastic retainer, a hook secured to the elastic retainer, a slip-on clip secured to the elastic retainer, and a crimp-on clip secured to the elastic retainer.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The device of claim 22 wherein a second one of the passages is formed as an aperture passing through the support bar operating surfaces.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The device of claim 23 wherein the support bar further comprises a second passage formed as a second slot communicating with a second edge portion of the support bar operating surfaces adjacent the second end thereof.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the means for compacting the support bar is limited to the means for folding the first portion of the support bar relative to the second portion thereof.

Claim 26 (new): A method for holding open the pages of a book, the method comprising:

supporting an open book on a substantially narrow and rigid elongated support bar positioned across a spine of the open book with the spine and two opposite open covers of the book being arranged adjacent to the elongated support bar with opposite first and second spaced-apart edges of the support bar extended beyond the opposite open covers of the book; and

retaining the pages of the open book substantially against both respective opposite covers of the open book with a single resilient elastic retainer, retaining the pages including extending the single elastic retainer between the opposite first and second spaced-apart edges of the elongated support bar and anchoring first and second opposite ends of the elastic retainer adjacent to respective first and second opposite ends of the support bar.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 26 wherein anchoring first and second opposite ends of the elastic retainer further comprises:

passing the first and second opposite ends of the elastic retainer through passages formed through the elongated support bar adjacent to the opposite first and second spaced-apart edges thereof,

releasably retaining against a surface of the support bar opposite from the book an anchor formed adjacent to the first end of the elastic retainer,

and substantially permanently retaining against the surface of the support bar opposite from the book an anchor formed adjacent to the second opposite end of the elastic retainer.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 27 wherein passing the first end of the elastic retainer through the passage formed through the elongated support bar adjacent to the first edge thereof further comprises passing the first end of the elastic retainer through a slot through a thickness of the support bar and communicating with the first edge thereof.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 27 wherein passing the second end of the elastic retainer through the passage formed through the elongated support bar adjacent to the second edge

thereof further comprises passing the second end of the elastic retainer through an aperture through a thickness of the support bar spaced away from the second edge thereof.

Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 26, further comprising forming an anchor adjacent to at least one of the first and second opposite ends of the elastic retainer.

Claim 31 (new): The method of claim 30 wherein forming an anchor adjacent to at least one of the first and second opposite ends of the elastic retainer further comprises forming a plurality of anchors at intervals along the elastic retainer.

Claim 33 (new): The method of claim 26, further comprising uncompacting the support bar before positioning it across the spine of the open book.

Claim 34 (new): The method of claim 33 wherein uncompacting the support bar further comprises one of unfolding and telescoping the support bar.